

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032534
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH/MPH
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
S/S-SESTEINER
S: JCAHILL

-----120313Z 017966 /62

O 120238Z PEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032534

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SANU'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY
FEBRUARY 10

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 10, AMBASSADOR SANU HAD 20
MINUTE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. MEETING ARRANGED AT
SANU'S REQUEST. SANU DELIVERED LETTER FROM EXTAFF COM-
MISSIONER GARBA LARGELY DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
MOST OF CONVERSATION CONCERNED NEED FOR FURTHER INITIATIVES
IN THAT AREA. SANU SAID NIGERIA SUPPORTED RESUMPTION OF
GENEVA CONFERENCE AND REQUESTED THAT FMG BE KEPT INFORMED
OF US VIEWS AND PROPOSALS REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE
SECRETARY MADE A VERY GENERAL COMMITMENT TO STAY IN TOUCH
WITH THE FMG ON THIS POINT. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 032534

WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 10, THE SECRETARY RECEIVED NIGERIAN AMBASSA-
DOR SANU AND MINISTER-COUNSELOR OBE. REQUEST FOR MEETING
ORIGINALLY MADE IN NOTE DATED JANUARY 24, CONVEYING A
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT. REQUEST

WAS REITERATED FEBRUARY 7 AFTER NIGERIAN EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF LETTER DATED JANUARY 28 FROM COMMISSIONER GARBA TO SECRETARY. TEXT BY SEPTTEL. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE AND AF/W DIRECTOR ALSO PRESENT.

3. AFTER INITIAL COURTESIES, SANU OPENED MEETING BY SAYING HE WAS RETURNING TO LAGOS ON CONSULTATION IN NEAR FUTURE AND WISHED TO REPORT HE HAD SEEN SECRETARY. HE ALSO WISHED DELIVER A LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER GARBA. SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF LETTER, EXPRESSED HOPE TO SEE GARBA SOON, AND SAID HE WOULD REPLY TO LETTER AT LATER DATE.

4. SANU SAID NIGERIA WAS GREATLY CONCERNED BY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED US SHARED THIS CONCERN AND REFERRED TO HIS TESTIMONY THAT MORNING IN SUPPORT OF REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT. SECRETARY SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT BILL WOULD PASS SENATE AND THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE BILL WOULD PASS HOUSE. HE NOTED THE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT IN AFRICA.

5. SANU NOTED FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OAU WOULD MEET SHORTLY IN TOGO (28TH SESSION OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 21-28 IN LOME). SANU REQUESTED THAT NIGERIA BE INFORMED OF ANY PROPOSALS US PLANNED TO MAKE IN NEAR FUTURE SO THAT FMG COULD SHAPE THE POSITION IT WOULD TAKE AT OAU MEETING ACCORDINGLY.

6. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT USG IS EXAMINING SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. HE SAID US HAD BENEFITED FROM TWO DAYS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 032534

OF CONVERSATION WITH IVOR RICHARD AND AGREED WITH RICHARD ON NECESSITY TO GET GENEVA CONFERENCE UNDERWAY AGAIN. SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH FMG WHEN WE HAD FRESH PROPOSALS TO MAKE, BUT CAUTIONED THAT HE COULD NOT BE PRECISE REGARDING THE TIMING OF THESE PROPOSALS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP HOPE WITH REGARD TO GENEVA CONFERENCE AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS "CRITICALLY IMPORTANT."

7. SANU RECALLED ACTIVE ROLE TAKEN BY NIGERIAN REP AT GENEVA AND SAID NIGERIA STILL SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF CONFERENCE.

8. SANU ASKED IF US REGARDED RHODESIAN PROBLEM AS MORE URGENT THAN NAMIBIA. SANU SAID HE THOUGHT NAMIBIAN SITUATION WAS BEING ALLOWED TO STAGNATE AND THAT THE LONGER A SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION WERE DELAYED, THE MORE TIME SOUTH AFRICA HAD TO FIND A UNILATERAL SOLUTION. SANU

WARNED THAT PROLONGED DELAY WOULD LEAD TO A REPETITION OF ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA. SANU CONCLUDED THAT NIGERIA HAD THOUGHT US WAS NOT PRESSING VORSTER HARD ENOUGH ON NAMIBIA. THIS WAS ONE OF DIFFICULTIES NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD WITH US POSITION.

9. SECRETARY ASKED IF SANU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET SWAPO TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF NAMIBIA. SANU REPLIED THAT ANY PROPOSALS ON THIS POINT HAD BEEN MADE INFORMALLY AND OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK OF DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA. SANU EMPHASIZED THAT IF THERE WERE A FIRM US POSITION ON NAMIBIA, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR GOVERNMENTS LIKE THE FMG TO APPROACH SWAPO AND EXPLORE ITS POSITION. SECRETARY AGREED THAT NAMIBIAN SITUATION COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAGNATE AND PROMISED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SANU ON THIS POINT.

10. SANU SAID GARBA WISHED TO CONTINUE EXCHANGE MESSAGES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 032534

WITH SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY AGREED AND THANKED SANU FOR WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED AMBASSADOR YOUNG. SANU REPLIED THAT RECEPTION ACCORDED AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS SIGN OF NIGERIANS' DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH US. SANU SAID CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION HAD GIVEN NIGERIA CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. SECRETARY SAID US WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THEM ABOUT.

11. IN CONCLUSION, SANU SAID SECRETARY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NIGERIAN PEOPLE HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY ANY NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. SECRETARY REPLIED BY EMPHASIZING ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; ITS OPPOSITION TO AN "INTERNAL SOLUTION ITS DESIRE FOR AN EARLY, PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA; AND THE DEPTH AND STRENGTH OF US COMMITMENT TO THESE POINTS.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE032534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH/MPH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0557
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770293/aaaagaib.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 475a9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3460815
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970915
Subject: AMBASSADOR SANU'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY FEBRUARY 10
TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, XJ, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/475a9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009